



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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For Immediate Release
June 2, 2010

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Unedited CNN interview, Mossville documentation available on Web

BATON ROUGE – Mossville is a small community located in Calcasieu Parish that has been intensely studied by environmental and health agencies since the 1990s. Many state and federal agencies have been involved in environmental sampling, health consultation and various meetings with the residents over the last 20 years.

CNN's Sanjay Gupta recently conducted a series of interviews with environmental activists, local Lake Charles area industry representatives and regulatory agency professionals concerning the environmental and health concerns voiced by Mossville residents. The report is scheduled to run today, June 2.

On April 16, DEQ Scientists Chris Piehler and Tom Harris sat down with Gupta for to discuss DEQ's regulatory role, especially those activities pertaining to Mossville. Most recently, several DEQ scientists have been participating in meetings with the residents and other interested parties concerning a plan by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to conduct additional sampling throughout the area.

Since the concerns came to light, several agencies have conducted environmental and/or health studies in the area. DEQ has conducted an air sampling survey in Calcasieu Parish. The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency also have published documents pertaining to the environmental and health conditions in Mossville.

Harris and Piehler provided Gupta with information outlining the various activities and studies on the area. DEQ staff also taped the complete interview. All of the information, which includes a timeline of events, a summary of ATSDR's findings and Toxic Release Inventory data for chemicals of concern, along with the complete, unedited DEQ interview is available at <http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/3050/Default.aspx>.

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